

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

which her enemies are deprived. I pray you, then, by the love of Christ crucified, dearest brothers and sons of Holy Church, to keep ever firm and persevering in what you have begun." She urges them at length, by every argument she can muster, to face every danger rather than join the league, and concludes with a promise of help from Pisa. " I tell you that, if you were to remain alone, you should stand firm in this field, and not look back ; but, by the grace of God, there is another there too. There are the Pisans, your neighbours, who, if you stand firm and persevere, will never fail you, but will ever aid you and defend you until death from whosoever would injure you. Ah, sweetest brothers, what demon will be able to coerce those two members who are bound together, in order not to offend God, in the bond of charity ? " ¹

¹ Letter 168 (206).